

afcoot small schemes for remunerative enterprises like the establishment of markets, slaughter-houses, and cart-stands. The Trivandrum Municipal Council has further engaged the services of an overseer for the supervision of public works, watering of roads, etc., which were hitherto left entirely to the care of Government. These are healthy signs of self-reliance and it is the sincere hope of the Government that such activities will multiply and pervade the life of the larger Municipal Councils in future. The fact, however, needs reiteration that the areas comprising the several municipalities of the State vary widely in their urban characteristics and the application of the provisions of one and the same Regulation to all these bodies alike cannot make for success. The Village Panchayat Bill, referred to in my Address last year, has already been introduced into the Legislative Council, and it is now passing through the Select Committee stage. When that Bill becomes law, as the Government trust it will in the near future, several of the present smaller Municipal Councils may circumscribe their activities within the ambit of its provisions, while the major municipalities and the few minor ones which have begun to reveal potentialities of urban development could avail themselves, with better readiness than before, of the improved opportunities which would be afforded by the Municipal Regulation when it is suitably amended. With the establishment of village panchayats in rural areas and with the retention of municipalities in places where alone there is real need for them, the Government trust that better days are in store for local self-government in the State.

62. The water-supply scheme for Trivandrum prepared by the late Mr. Banerji having been found to be too costly, a cheaper scheme for a combined water and electric supply to the town from the same source has been ordered to be prepared and it is now in progress. The filling up and raising the level of the Puttarikkantam swamp in the centre of Trivandrum town has also been commenced and the Public Works Department is proceeding with the work. It is also proposed to carry on a preliminary investigation for a water-supply scheme for the town of Nagercoil, one-half of the cost of the investigation being met by the Municipality and the other half by the Government.

63. Panchayat and Bench Courts. The Government are glad to note that their association of the people with the responsible work of administering civil and criminal justice is gaining increasing public confidence. The civil suits disposed of by the Panchayat Courts rose from 4,541 to 7,678 or by 69 per cent. during the last three years. The four First and four Second Class Magistrates' Benches established with effect from the 1st Dhanu, 1098 disposed of 5,871 cases during the first eight months of their tenure, giving an average of 734 cases per court. Since the close of 1098, two more Second Class Magistrates' Benches have been instituted, one at Parur and the other at Padmanabhapuram, from the 1st Chingam and the 1st Kanni, 1099, respectively.

64. Legislative Council. The Legislative Council, constituted under Regulation II of 1097, has now been at work for over a year and a half. The non-official members of the Council have not been slow to make a full and free use of the large powers vested in them under the new constitution; and it is due to them to acknowledge that such use has on the whole been steadied by a sense of responsibility. Three meetings of the Council were held in 1098, lasting over a period of 26 days; and besides transacting the usual legislative work, 548 interpellations were answered and 16 resolutions on matters of general public interest discussed at these meetings. Two meetings, extending over a period of 9 days, have been held in 1099 and it is proposed to hold two more meetings during the year. 251 interpellations were answered at the two meetings held in 1099 and 15 resolutions discussed. Prominent among the resolutions discussed in the Council so far are those relating to the establishment of a University in Travancore, the prohibition of the manufacture and importation of liquor except for medicinal purposes, the Kallar hydro-electric scheme, the restriction of public service to Travancoreans, the encouragement of vernaculars, the reduction of expenditure on salaries and allowances, the increase of outlay on minor irrigation works, the free cultivation of royal trees, the appointment of a retrenchment committee, the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the